

Please amend the claims as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

6. A recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding hepatitis C virus NS4 or NS5 protein wherein said nucleotide sequence is operably linked to regulatory elements, said regulatory elements comprising a promoter, enhancer, polyadenylation sequence, and a 5' untranslated region (5'-UTR), said 5'-UTR comprising at least the 9 most 3' nucleotides of a 5' UTR of hepatitis C virus.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a) a recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding hepatitis C virus NS4 or NS5 protein, wherein said nucleotide sequence is operably linked to regulatory elements functional in human cells; and

b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent;

wherein said regulatory elements functional in human cells comprise a promoter, enhancer, polyadenylation sequence, and a 5' untranslated region (5'-UTR), said 5'-UTR comprising at least the 9 most 3' nucleotides of a 5' UTR of hepatitis C virus.

32. A method of treating a human who is infected with hepatitis C virus comprising administering to said human a pharmaceutical composition in an amount effective to induce a therapeutic immune response against hepatitis C virus, wherein said composition comprises a recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a hepatitis C virus nonstructural protein, wherein said nucleotide sequence is operably linked to regulatory elements functional in human cells, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent, wherein said regulatory elements functional in human cells comprise a promoter, enhancer, polyadenylation sequence, and a 5' untranslated region (5'-UTR), said 5'-UTR comprising at least the 9 most 3' nucleotides of a 5' UTR of hepatitis C virus.